

U.S.S.N. 09/235,875

Filed: January 22, 1999

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Amendment

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 13-24 with the following paragraph.

Transgenic *E. coli* strains that express a chromosomally encoded PHA polymerase from *N. salmonicolor* were constructed. The PHB polymerase gene from *N. salmonicolor* was isolated and a fusion of this gene was generated with the translational sequences of the PHA polymerase gene from *Z. ramigera*, which includes the N-terminal 10 residues of the *Pseudomonas* enzyme. A promoterless chloramphenicol transferase gene was then placed behind the hybrid *phbC* gene to make a *phbC-cat* fusion. This fusion was randomly inserted into the *E. coli* chromosome using the pLOF or pUT system (Herrero et al. *J. Bacteriol.*, 1990; 172(11):6557-6567) and clones expressing the fusion were selected on chloramphenicol-containing growth medium. Expression of the fusion was consequently increased by selecting derivatives that are resistant to higher chloramphenicol levels.

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